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Hospitals cease to be hospitable

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CONDITIONS in the city's Government hospitals are so deplorable that they no longer are fit for the ailing patients.

Insanitation, lack of medical care and utter neglect of the sick by the medical staff have become so rampant that one wonders if there is even a semblance of administration functioning in these hospitals.

One abhors to go round the wards at the General Hospital even during the day time. Except for the time when the Medical Officer in-charge for a particular day makes his usual rounds with medical students towing him, there is no kind of order in the wards. The nursing sister is nowhere in sight. The patient, in the post-operative stage, wanting to pass urine in the can cannot find it under his bed and when he shouts for the wardboy he does not respond, but is engaged in gossip elsewhere.

BUGS, BUGS,...

The latrines are never cleaned and there is no running water. The stench is so awful that can faint with nausea. The bed covers are seldom changed and bugs can be seen in their hundreds under the pillow and on the matresses.

Filth thrown in the bins are never removed. The left-over food discarded by the patients swarm with flies all over the floor.

The so-called emergency wards are the most neglected. The ward boys fling abuses on the patients and no action is taken against him even if the matter is reported to the higher authorities. He will oblige only on seeing money being pressed into his hands.

As the patient lies on the bed with the glucose water in the inverted bottles dripping into his veins, there is neither the nurse nor the sister to check the formation of bubbles in the tube.

DARK WARDS

The wards are so dark with very little ventilation that visibility beyond a few feet is almost impossible.

Medicines prescribed by the doctor for the patients were never given regularly unless the patient himself asks for them.

Food rations like milk, bread, fruit and idlis are often squandered by the ward boys. The coffee or butter served to the patients are always adulterated. There is no supervision whatsoever to see if only hygienic food is given to the sick.

The patient himself has to go and fetch drinking water. He has to clean his ruffled bed sheets for no hospital staff comes near him for the night. If a patient troubles too much, he or she is given a sedative pill for the night.

In such conditions, is it surprising that a sick person shudders to enter a hospital ?

The pity is that Government hospitals are run like any other State owned department with nobody accepting responsibility. Honorary surgeons and physicians attached to the hospitals have very little say in the day-to-day administration of the hospitals. The house surgeons are just birds of passage ; most of them, young men and women spend a good deal of their time cracking jokes and exchanging love talks

(Contd. on page 2)

Palm Cola Is Popular

PALM Cola, the formula for which was prepared by the Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village Industries Board, a constituent of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), has found its place as yet another substitute for Coca Cola at the KVIC pavilion at the Agri-Expo 77, New Delhi.

A spokesman of the KVIC said Palm Cola had become so popular with the Delhi people that it had decided to set up a big bottling plant for large-scale marketing of the product in the Capital.

Palm Cola is claimed to be "absolutely harmless" to the human system, as it is prepared from palm sugar, natural flavour and colouring materials. Being a palm product, it is said to have a body-cooling effect when consumed in summer months.

Unlike other aerated drinks, Palm Cola would not leave a "fed-up" taste in the mouth, even if more bottles are consumed, it is claimed.

The success of Palm Cola would be an economic boost to millions of poor farmers all over the country.

TNSC Bank's Contribution to CM's Fund

The Tamil Nadu State Cooperative Bank Ltd. contributed a sum of rupees One lakh to the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund for rehabilitating the victims of the recent cyclone and floods in the districts of Tamil Nadu. Picture shows Mr. M. Ahmed, IAS, Special Officer and Managing Director of the Bank, presenting a cheque for the amount to Mr. G. R. Edmund, Minister for Food and Cooperation.

THUS SPAKE THE MAHATMA

I have been a 'gambler' all my life. In my passion for finding truth and in relentlessly following out my faith in non-violence, I have counted no stake too great.

ASOKA SCENTED BETEL NUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY Dec. 18, 1977

AGITATIONS

Everyday the newspapers carry news of one agitation or the other launched by various aggrieved sections. Agitations take different forms—from mass casual leave to picketing Government offices and morchas. Though many of the demonstrations begin peacefully, they tend to turn violent. For reasons unknown, agitations organised by political parties invariably turn violent and end up with heavy damage to public property and inconvenience to the general public.

Recently we witnessed the black flag demonstration against Mrs Indira Gandhi ending up with police firings and jailing of many DMK leaders. There was the labour agitation in Padi, a suburb of Madras city, which had a national bearing.

Formerly, the public agitations were used by the trade unions and political parties only as a last resort in pressing their demands and getting redressal. But, agitations have tend to become a way of life for many now a days.

The leaders who organise demonstrations must consider the inconvenience caused to others and also the expense to exchequer in giving police protections and making bandobust arrangements.

It is high time that unnecessary agitations are put an end to.

Of Men And Matters

Conversions Galore

THE visit to India of the renowned evangelist Dr. Billy Graham last week proved to be a heaven-sent opportunity for the various Christian missionary organisations in South India. They used his popularity for propagating Christianity among lakhs of poverty-stricken people who have been rendered homeless on account of the tremendous havoc caused by the recent cyclone and floods in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

It is believed that more than two lakhs of orphaned children and others have been induced to embrace Christianity out of sheer necessity within the space of the last two weeks.

Of late Christian missionary organisations which have been enjoying the patronage of several of the affluent foreign missions abroad through liberal financial assistance could not continue to make much headway in the pro-Christian campaigning activities because State welfare bodies were able to meet to some extent the demands of the needy without the receplents having to change their professed religion.

The untold misery which has now overtaken millions of people in the flood affected areas of Andhra Pradesh has afforded the right type of climate for Christian propagandists to extend charity with one hand and distribute the Bible with the other.

It is the tragedy of Indian Politics and our social set-up that opportunitists, be they politicians or religious fanatics, they fish in troubled waters especially when it comes to exploiting the poor and the ignorant.

* * *

Strange Logic

POLITICIANS can be depended uponito call black white and vice versa just to suit their whims least caring for the well being of the nation.

Claiming that the split in the Congress was imminent, Mr. Azeez Sait, an aide of Mr. Devaraj Urs, stated in his press conference in Bangalore that Mrs. Indira Gandhi would be announcing her decision to leave the CWC shortly and with that the "real" Congress would be following her. As if that was not enough, he went so far as to say that if the Congress Chief Mr. Bhramanada Reddy were to resign from his post, "the Congress could remain as a single party". What strange logic is this?

The argument is that the most objectionable part in the present enstrangement within the Party is not any principle, but the play of personality. All that Mr. Urs and his group seek is the need for the Congress President to make way for Mrs. Gandhi.

If another split were to take place, it would only weaken the organisation which claims to be the strongest Opposition to the Ruling Party. What happens to the position of Mr. Chavan? Instead of strengthening his hands to carry through the avowed policies of the Congress at the Government level with the help of colleagues in Parliament, Mr. Chavan's position will be further watered down if the Congress MPs were to join Mrs. Gandhi.

By his own statement that the new party will function initially from Karnataka Mr. Sait has admitted that the supporters of Mrs. Gandhi are just groping in the dark. —DEEVE.

Reader Writes

THE BIG JOKE

Commissions are proving to be a big joke. The common man has started asking as to what will be the outcome of the findings of the various Commissions appointed to probe into the several cases of misuse of power and the fraud played by the corrupt politicians.

In the matter of the findings of the Sarkaria Commission which has already made its report to the Centre regarding the involvement of the former Chief Minister, Mr. M. Karunanidhi in the "Aerial spraying contact" and the "Sugar Deal", there is yet to be a follow up action.

The State Government is awaiting the orders of the Centre to take up proceedings against those reponsible for the offences. It has taken nearly two years for Sarkaria Commission to sit through the various charges and by the time the last case is taken up there may be another election and the complex of the political set up may undergo complete change.

In my estimation, the setting up of Commissions without executive powers is a great drain on the nation's resources. Except that its findings fill the columns of the newspapers and give a temporary thrill, no concrete purpose is served to book the real culprits to mete out the justice due to them.

O. R. SEKHAR
Madras.

From page 1

Hospitals. . .

rather than learning to become useful in their profession.

It is time that serious thought is given for a thorough overall of the deteriorating conditions in the Government-run hospitals where patients, instead of getting well, are made to suffer hell.

Anxiety Of Television Units

THE supply position of TV picture tubes is causing much anxiety to small-scale TV manufacturers, according to a press report from New Delhi.

The import of the picture tubes has been canalised through the Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation for the past one year.

According to the policy announced by the Department fo Electronics from time to time, the Government's intention was to make picture tubes available to TV makers to meet their full requirements. But in distributing the imported tubes the department had insisted that the production of Indian TV manufacturers should be stepped up first before imported TV tubes could be supplied.

THE SNAG

The practical snag that causes problems for the manufacturers stepping up local production is that Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) which is expected to produce and deliver 10000 to 12000 tubes a month is still not in a position to supply even 5000 tubes a month.

The Marathe panel on picture tubes had laid great emphasis on dependable and economic production by BEL of not less than one lakh tubes a year. During 1977, the production was to have been stepped up to three lakh tubes a year to meet the growing demand. The panel had also recommended a price of Rs. 373 a tube.

What exactly has happened is said to be that BEL, for reasons unknown, has failed to produce even a third of what was expected of it. They also charge Rs. 30 more than fair price fixed by the Government.

SHOCKING

What is more shocking, the c.i.f. imported value of imported raw material components used in BEL picture tubes is Rs. 150 while the finished picture tubes cost only Rs. 130 each. It is not known what actual purpose has been served by BEL having foreign collaboration for six years with NEL of Japan and also having made an investment of about Rs. two crores on plant if the price of the imported raw material is much more than the price of the picture tube itself, sa ys the report.

It is also not known whether the Marathe Committee set up to go into the question has fully gone into these aspects, but as far as the consumers are concerned, this appears to be a questionable way of spending foreign exchange—on account of foreign collaboration, investment and plan to import raw materials.

Assistance To Indian Steel Industry

ANDHRA Pradesh, the Indian province which has been a victim of disastrous storms, has been chosen as the home for a demonstra ion by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) of a steel-making technique which could solve Indian problems in the next century.

UNIDO, acting on behalf of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), signed on November 28 the biggest contract it has ever placed. Lurgi Chemie and Huettentechnik Gmbh of Frankfurt Am Main, Federal Republ c of Germany, has accepted the $9 million (DM20 million) task of building a sponge iron plant producing 30,000 tons a year. The system, comparatively new to India, is designed to overcome threats to the industry through shortages of essential materials predicted for the end of the century. Other aspects are that abundant home supplies of alternative fuel can be used, that energy will be saved, that expensive imports will be avoided, and that living conditions will be improved, in a hard-hit rural area.

Sponge iron, so-called because of its appearance, comes from direct reduction of iron ore instead of using blast furnaces. For the last 150 years India has used coke made from a special coal for the blast furnaces in five steel mills, together with limestone and injected air for the process of melting the metal and separating the residue and slag. Within about 20 years, however, known resources of the coking coal will be exhausted and supplies would then have to be obtained at high cost from Europe, Australia or America, unless an alternative system can be developed.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Government of India accordingly sought technical assistance from UNIDO on technologies which might be suited to the types of coal and ore available bearing in mind information provided about the direct reduction method at seminars and in the organization's publications.

Investigations led to the adoption of a rotary kiln process to produce sponge iron which, with scrap steel additives, can be fed to electric arc furnaces for conversion into steel. A project was prepared for which UNDP has made $4 million available and the Government of India $5 million. On the Indian side, Sponge Iron India Limited was formed by the national and provincial governments, with M. N. Dastur and Company (P) Limited, a firm of engineering consultants, acting as a link with UNIDO and its contractors for supplies, equipment and services.

Lurgi Chemie was the contractor selected by UNIDO to supply know-how, machinery equipment, spare parts, engineering, drawings and technical specifications. It will also provide engineering and technical services together with personnel, for the direct reduction plant at Kothagudam, Andhra Pradesh. The firm is additionally to be responsible for starting up and commissioning the plant so that its production will be in the 30,000 to 40,000 ton range, a task which is to be completed in two-and-a-half years.

VGP contribution to storm victims

VGP brothers have contributed Rs. 10,001/- and the employees of VGP Concerns Rs. 5,001/- to the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund. They met the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. G. Ramachandran recently at the secretarist and handed over the amount. Apart from their own contribution, VGP brothers also handed over to the Chief Minister Rs. 1825 in cash and goods worth Rs. 35,000 collected from the public.

Energy sources of tomorrow

DR. RAMANNA, Director of BARC, did well to try to clear some of the popular misconceptions about nuclear power. Possibly it is optimistic (which is in any case better than being cynical) to suggest that all our energy problems can be solved in the next 25 years, by relying heavily on nuclear reactors, but then it would be unfair to assume that he doesn't know what he is talking about.

What concerns the lay public, however, is far more tangible. Many people feel that the capital and generating costs of nuclear power are higher than the more conventional resources. This is incorrect, as the figures given by the Director clearly show.

There is also the fear recently highlighted in the fierce debates in the United States, that nuclear reactors are not safe enough. This and other fears have also been stilled by Dr Ramana in an able fashion. What is needed now is extensive education and fact-dissemination, for which of course, the scientists themselves have to come forward and use the mass media.

On one point, however, Dr Ramanna seemed to be a trifle too gloomy. Except for nuclear power, he said, he could think of no other sources that can meet our future needs. Here he ignores the potential of geothermal and solar energy, which is by no means negligible. Solar thermal, photovoltaic, wind and ocean thermal gradient energy is in an underdeveloped stage, but with more effort, research and funds, they can become sizable sources.

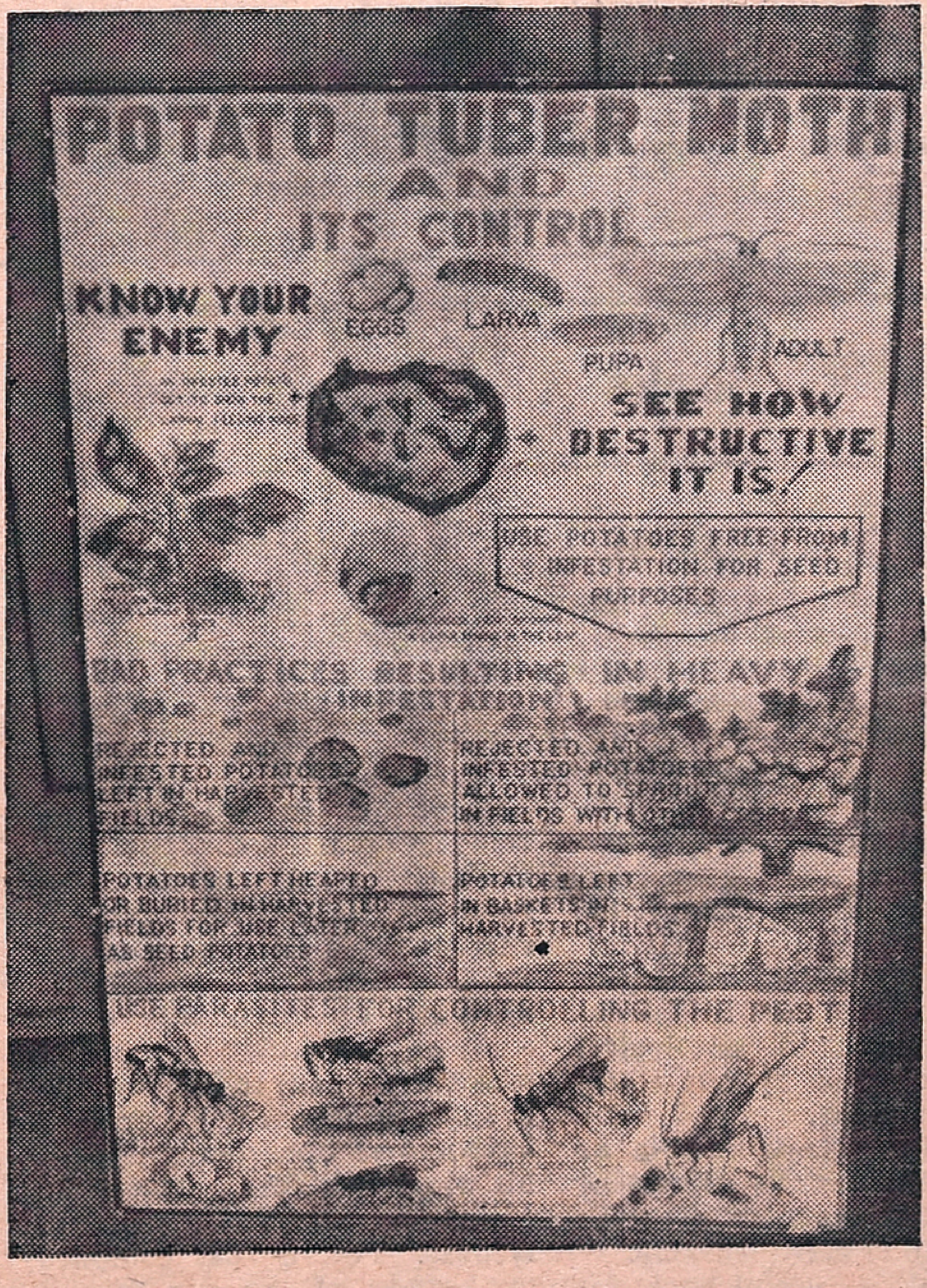
Solving Food Problem: Role of Fertilizer

"THE most urgent problem facing the world during the remainder of this century is producing adequate food for the hundreds of millions of the world's hungry and malnourished people," said Dr. John Hannah, Executive Director of the World Food Council, at a seminar organised in Delhi by the Indian Fertiliser Association. The Seminar was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Petroleum and Chemicals, Mr. H.N. Bahuguna. Dr. Hannah is also the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Fertiliser Development Centre which was established in 1974 under the aegis of the United Nations.

While prior to 1974 the main thrust of international organisations was towards transfering existing fertiliser technology and materials from developed countries, Dr. Hannah explained that "the Centre has as its mission that of ensuring that appropriate technology and fertiliser materials are developed for tropical and sub-tropical situations so that fertiliser will not be the limiting factor in solving the food problem".

HIGH PRIORITY

Dr Hannah said the world had the capability to solve its food problem but the World Food Council "must know, on a country to country basis, the magnitude of investments required and the physical inputs, such as fertilisers, required to increase food production at least at the 4 p.c. level indicated by the Council. The first imperative, above all else, is to encourage and assist the food deficit nations to feed themselves. They can. We must help. This can only be done, however, if the developing countries and the international community give to local food production a consistently high priority. It is the only solution to the present food problem. Fertiliser will be a key in the solution."



The biological control of pests is an important part of agricultural research. The chart seen here concerns the eradicaiton of the potato tuber moth. The Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control, Bangalore, is engaged in this work.

FUN AND LAUGHTER

WRONG PERSON

The minister advertised for a man-servant and next morning a nicely dressed young man rang the bell.

"Can you start the fire and get breakfast by seven o'clock" asked the minister.

"I guess so," answered the young man.

"Well, can you polish all the silver, wash the dishes and keep the house neat and tidy ?"

"Say, parson," said young fellow, 'I came here to see about getting married—but if it's going to be as much work as all that you can count me out right now".

*　*　*

SUPREME COURT

Because of its finding that the device was "new and inventive". The court said that Edna Nudelman of Chicago was properly granted a patent on the pig. Further, it said that the patent was infringed by a concern called Crest Specialty of Chicago. Crest has a similar device in puppy form.

Crest appealed to the ederal Circuit Court in Chicago. That court, too upheld the Nudelman patent. Crest carried the fight to the Supreme Court, which ruled in its favor.

x　x　x

PRECAUTIONS!

"Any complaints ?" asked the officer.

One man stepped forward and declared excitedly that he had been supplied with a ginger ale bottle that contained, not ginger ale, but benzine, and that he had drank half of it.

"All right," replied the officer, "you had better not smoke for a few days".

x　x　x

WARNING HINT

"It's high time," said the reformer, "that we had a moral awakening. Let us rise in our might. Let us gird our loins. Let us take off our coats. Let us bare our arms. Let us—"

"Hold on!" exclaimed a tall, thin woman near the platform. "If this to be a moral awakening, don't you dare take off another thing!"

THE LAST WORD

The worthy priest was preaching a sermon that went on and on and seemed never to be coming to an end. At last he paused and said: "What more should I say, my dear parishioners?"

From the back of the church came a voice: 'Amen".

x　x　x

THE RIGHT BOY

Employer: "Yes, I advertised for a good strong boy. Think you can fill the bill ?"

Applicant: "Well, I just finished whipping nineteen other applicants outside the door."

x　x　x

THE GREAT-LIAR!

A Boston minister once noticed a crowd of urchins clustered around a dog of doubtful pedigree.

"What are you doing, my little men?" he asked, with fatherly interest

"Swappin' lies," volunteered one of the boys. "The feller that tells the biggest one gets the pup".

"Shocking!' exclaimed the minister, "Why, when I was your age I never thought of telling an untruth".

"You win," chorused the urchins. "The dog's yours, mister".

x　x　x

NO MIDDLEMEN

Mac's wife was ill, and he was running for the undertaker.

"But," remonstrated a friend who met him, "it's no undertaker you want. It's a doctor."

"Nay, nay," was Mac's reply, 'I canna afford to deal wi' middle-men".

EARLY HABIT

Two fathers were discussing the upbringing of children.

"Yes," said one, 'a great deal depends on the formation of early habits".

"It does," replied the other. "My mother hired a woman to wheel me about while I was a baby, and I've been pushed for money ever since".

x　x　x

TALL STORY

"It was so cold where we were," said the Arctic explorer, "that the candle-light froze and we couldn't blow it out".

"That's nothing," said his rival. "Where we were the words came out of our mouths in chunks of ice and we had to fry them to see what we were talking about".

x　x　x

AMENDMENT

The widow had placed a tombstone at her hurband's grave, bearing this noble sentiment: "Without you I cannot bear to live," A year later she remarried and ordered the monument maker to add one word. So he went back and chiselled, "alone".

x　x　x

BLOWN UP

The landlady was showing a prospective tenant a dingy room with badly spotted wallpaper.

"This is a very nice room," she declared. The last man who lived here was an inventor—he invented some kind of explosive".

"I see," said the prospect, "And I suppose the spots on the walls are the inventor".

INVERTED

Jacob was negotiating a loan from his brother, Solly. Solly was willing to make an advance but demanded 9 per cent.

"Well," said Jacob, "I aint' kickin',y' understand, but vot'll our poor dear dead fadder say ven he looks down and sees his son gouging 9 per cent out of his own flesh and blood ?"

"Don't you worry about that, Jacob," replied the lender, affably. "From where he is it'll look like 6 per cent".

x　x　x

THE PROFIT !

The man stopped at a jeweller's to look at some watches that had been advertised in the newspapers as selling below cost. "If you're selling these below cost," he asked, "where does your profit come in ?"

"Oh," replied the jeweller, "we make out profit repairing them".

*　*　*

TO BURN

"It says here," said one spinster reading from the newspaper, "that a woman in Johannesburg has cremated her third husband."

"Oh, isn't that just the way of things," cried the other spinster. "Some of us can't get one and other women have husbands to burn".

x　x　x

WHERE THEY GO

"Do you know where little boys go who don't put their money in the plate on Sundays?"

"Yes, vicar. To the pictures".

x　x　x

IGNORANCE

A customer went the other day into a bookshop.

"I want 'The Letters of Charles Lamb'," he said.

"You'll find the post office on the left hand side, a little farther down the street, Mr. Lamb," said the obliging assistant.

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Books . Books . Books . Books

Vivaha Poruthangal

Pandit Kaliyur M. Srinivasachariar, the famous astrologer, has brought out the second edition of his book, VIVAHA PORUTHANGAL, at a time when many in our society have started drifting from the tradition of entering into matrimonial alliances only after studying astrological aspects of matching the couple.

The author in this book argues convincingly the need for following the age old astrological method followed by our elders in match making.

In his own unimitable style he discusses the various aspects of the basic ten points that are to be looked into in match-making.

This is a useful book for parents who are looking for a proper match for their wards and also for others.

(VIVAHA PORUTHANGAL, by Pandit Kaliyur M. Srinivasachariar, Thaponidhi, T'Nagar, Madras-600 017. Price Rs. 5/-.)

Srimad Bhagavad Gita

Many learned scholars have lectured on Srimad Bhagavad Gita. Of them Sri Karappangadu Venkatacharya Swami had earned name and fame by his simple but effective style. He had studied the Gita deeply and his lectures show how devoted he was in the study of the Gita. Many people who did not have the opportunity to listen to his discourses on Gita have now an opportunity to read his various lectures, thanks to Mylapore Sri C. R. Srinivasa Iyengar. For, he has compiled the lectures of the late scholar and brought out the first volume of the book with first six chapters. Sri Kumaravadi Ramanujachariar has lent able assistance to Sri Srinivasa Iyengar in checking and simplifying the text of the commentary rendered by Sri Karappangadu Swami for the benefit of the lay reader.

(SRIMAD BHAGAVAD GITA (Vol. 1) Commentary by Sri Karappangadu Venkatacharya Swami, compiled and published by Sri C. R. Srinivasa Iyengar, 42, Mela Uthira Veedhi, Srirangam, Tiruchy. Price : Rs. 6/-.)

Srivaishnavam

SRIVAISHNAVAM is a small booklet that explains in simple style the philosophy of Sri Vaishnavam. Written by Sri Kumaravadi Ramanujachariar, the booklet also contains short notes on the Vaishnavite Saints (Alwars) who propagated the Sri Vaishnava Philosophy, and Guruparambarai followed by Sri Vaishnavites. It is a very useful book for anyone who would like to know about Sri Vaishnavism. Priced at 50 paise a copy, it is available at : Araneri Pathippagam, 29/8, Abraham Mudali St., Mylapore, Madras - 600 004.

Far and Near

Dossier On Minister

There was no end to the surprise felt by Ekkehard Gries, the new Minister of the Interior of Hesse (West Germany). And understandably. On assuming office this member of the ruling Free Democratic Party decided to acquaint himself with the work done by the local Department for Safeguarding the Constitution-or, to put it briefly the political police—which is now subordinated to him. Looking through the card indexes, which contain compromising information, he unexpectedly came across his own name. How come? The "guardians of the Constitution," it turns out, started a dossier on him when Gries headed the local Young-Democrats. The reason was his participation in a meeting with youth representatives from the German Democratic Republic.

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Souvenir

James George, a country law enforcement officer in Parkersburg, West Virginia (U.S.A.), was apparently mighty attached to the local jail. At any rate, when it was decided to demolish it he paid $ 100 for one of the cells. He is installing it in his backyard and plans to fix it up as "just a nice cool place to be in the evening".

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How To Build A Pyramid

The Greek historian Herodotus had a theory that the Egyptian pyramids were built with wooden cranes and ramps. Japanese archelogist Sakuji Yoshimura says the only way to establish the truth is to build one more pyramid in Egypt the same way. The Nippon Television Network Corporation liked the idea and offered to finance its construction (at the estimated cost of $ 1 million) and to film two 90-minute features to commemorate the NTV's 25th anniversary. The Egyptian government has agreed on the condition that the Japanese pyramid will be removed as soon as it is built and photographed.

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Reading Less

In England and Wales, school children aged 10 to 14 watch two and a half hours of television a night, according to a survey. Moreover, those who watch TV most also tend to read the least. By the age of 14 as many as 40 per cent of boys and a third of girls stop reading altogether, the survey shows.

Air Hostesses Win Suit

The suit brought by dismissed stewardesses against the American Airlines was one of the largest civil rights cases in U.S. legal history. Between 1965 and 1970 the company fired 300 hostesses after they took maternity leaves. Although the airline clearly violated the Civil Rights Act of 1964, it took the court seven years to pass a ruling in favour of the hostesses.

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The Prime Consideration

Belgian smokers have good reason to be nervous: the prices of tobacco, cigerettes and cigars are again going up. A packet of one popular brand of cigarettes will now cost 45 francs. This is the seventeenth increase in prices since 1951. In raising prices, the manufacturers are less concerned with people's health than their own pockets. What is more, the demand for tobacco products is being whipped up by highpressure advertising: people are persuaded to buy expensive cigarettes because of their "high quality" and "fragrance". How much tobacco merchants make may be judged by the output: 20,000 million cigarettes, 1,200 million cigars and about 5,000 tons of pipe tobacco a year in a country with a population of 10 million.

KILLJOY

AN armyman who had gone to Santa Cruz airport to see his family off had a strange encounter with the checking staff of Indian Airlines. The cause: his child's rifle—made of wood and which couldn't possibly hurt a fly.

The armyman was asked to book the toy in the section where lethal weapons are kept. The child, however, wouldn't part with his toy and broke into a hysterical cry.

The father argued with the staff that it was absurd to think that the toy could do any harm. The child clutched at his toy. But, the over-cautious officials had their way. The child boarded the plane, still whimpering and his holiday ruined, leaving the toy behind on the promise that a bigger one would be bought for him later.

Police Scandal

Another police corruption scandal has broken out in Hongkong. Former police chief Peter Godber, who made quite a fortune by improper means during his service as a policeman and who was sentenced to four years for it, was recently released (his sentence was reduced by a third "for good behaviour") and decided to fight to keep the illgotten money. It now transpires that his colleagues have also been taking pay-offs. The source of their enrichment has been revealed by the London weekly Observer. "There is a considerable section of Hongkong's five million population-ranging from honest street-traders to not-so-honest pimps and drug-pushers—who are prepared to pay regular sums to policemen in return for not being harassed", the paper writes.

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High Price Of Stolen Kisses

STEALING a kiss in Malaysia these days can land a Muslim boy or girl in trouble with the religious courts.

If caught in the act, they can be jailed for up to two months or fined as much as 85 US dollars.

A spokesman of the Islamic religious department in the northern state of Kedah has caused eyebrows to rise by even suggesting that offenders be whipped and stoned.

He said the department was planning amendments to the state religious laws soon to provide for stiffer penalities for the sex offences—known as KHALWAT (close proximity between unmarried people) and ZINAH (adultery).

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Satellite Units

The Bharath Heavy Electricals, Tiruchi will set up two satellite plants around Tiruchi at a cost of Rs. 35 crores. About 4,000 persons will get employment.

One unit will manufacture new types of valves and soot blowers and the other air pre-heaters and fans. Work on the units is expected to start by April-May next, BHEL chairman and managing director S. V. S. Raghavan informed.

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Talking Record

Ray Cantwell on Dec. 10 became the talk of Oxford town when he completed a new world record for non-stop speaking. He opened his mouth to begin the record attempt on Dec. 5 and finally shut it after 150 hours, it is reported.

A DOG STORY

A story about a dog is making the rounds at Bombay airport these days.

It seems that an Alsatian pup was booked by a major airline on a London-bound flight at Madras. In Bombay, a transit station, the dog was taken out for "feeding", in keeping with international civil aviation rules. Some of the porters teased and prodded the puppy until it managed to escape into the wild grass and then beyond the boundary fence.

The porters, after a frenzied search, caught a non-descript mongrel and sent it packing on the long flight to London.

The next day, the London consignee telexed a worried complaint to which the airline promptly replied that no 'irregularity' had been noticed at Bombay airport.

Food Preservation By Irradiation

ONE hundred and seventy participants from 35 countries and four international organizations met recently in Wageningen Netherlands, under the aegis of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to discuss results obtained and plan for further development of a novel physical method of food preservation, i.e. the use of ionizing radiations emitted by isotopes, or generated in electrical machines.

Elaboration of this process is part of a world-wide effort to reduce post harvest losses and food spoilage which still continue to take a heavy toll by destroying a substantial portion of the world's food supplies, especially in developing countries. The number of irradiated food items that member States have accepted for limited or unrestricted clearance for human consumption has now reached 26. It includes potatoes, onions, grain and grain products as well as meat and flesh.

Practical studies on the control of physiological changes in plants (e.g. sprouting of potatoes, onions, garlic), of animal infestation (insects) in stored products (e.g. grain, tropical fruits), on the control of microbial spoilage (e.g. in fruit, fish, meat, lesser ingredients) and food-borne diseases have been evaluted. Design and operation of, and dosimetry in, irradiation facilities, the economics and energy aspects of food irradiation have been examined. Special emphasis was laid on the assessment of the wholesomeness of irradiated foods.

For The Week 18th December To 24th December 1977

MESHA (ARIES)
Aswini Bharani
Krittika 1/4

THE whole week will be satisfactory. You should continue your efforts in your official work. You are likely to get the support and encouragement from influential persons. Financial position will be satisfactory. Minor speculative gains are also indicated. Family affairs come for closer attention. Matters relating to children could be finalised. Property matters require attention. Health will be well maintained. Favourable days: 23rd & 24th.

★

VRISHABA (TAURUS)
Krittika 3/4 Rohini
Mrigashirsha 1/2

THIS week opens with a renewed emphasis on monetary matters. Speculative gains are also indicated. There is no major change in official sphere. You can hope to complete outstanding work. Domestic atmosphere will be good. But matters relating to children should be handled properly to avoid complications. Political and social trends will be encouraging. But avoid speculations. Short journeys are indicated. Favourable days: 18th & 19th.

★

MITHUNA (GEMINI)
Mrigashirsha 1/2 Arudra
Punarvasu 3/4

MOST of the week shows ordinary results. Finance will be satisfactory. But avoid speculative investments for some more time. Physical and mental strain should be avoided. If possible try to take complete rest for a few days. The position will improve by the end of this week. Family members will be cooperative. Youngsters will be a source of anxiety. A oid long distance journeys unless necessary. Favourable days: 20th & 21st.

★

KATAKA (CANCER)
Punarvasu 1/4 Pushya
Ashlesha

THE first part of the week is better than the later half. You should try to complete important transactions as early as possible. Pressure from creditors and borrowings are some possibilities. Partnership matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Family atmosphere will be cloudy. A short journey is indicated during this week. Generally the run of luck at the moment is below average. Fvourable days: 22nd & 23rd.

★

SIMHA (LEO)
Maka Purva Palguni
Uttara Palguni 1/4

MOST of the week is ordinary though the week-end may produce better results. You should devote more attention to domestic matters. There is some difficulty relating to children. But the general level of comfort at home is satisfactory. Some problems are indicated in profession. You should also not strain your relations with coworkers. Favourable days: 19th & 20th.

★

KANYA (VIRGO)
Uttara Palguni 3/4 Hastha
Chitra 1/2

THIS week starts well. Professional prospects will improve. You should go ahead with your plans. You will be able to start new ventures next month. Family members will be cooperative. But ke p an eye on children. You can expect some benefits from opposite sex. Finance is fairly satisfactory. Favourable days: 21st & 22nd.

★

THULA (LIBRA)
Chitra 1/2 Swathi
Visakha 3/4

THIS week is good for personal matters. But heavy expenses will cause some anxiety. Worries regarding professional matters are also seen. But the position will improve by the end of this week. There is need for maintaining cordial relations with superiors. Family atmosphere will be pleasant. Disputes and misunderstanding regarding property matters should be settled with care and patience. Favourable days: 23rd & 24th.

VRISCHIKA (SCORPIO)
Vishakha 1/4 Anuradha
Jyeshtha

THE whole week can be said to be satisfactory. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. You should try to find new source of income, by diversifying your activities. Official atmosphere will be normal. But avoid friction with superiors. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children could be finalised favourably. Short journeys are indicated. Avoid legal proceedings to settle property matters. Favourable days: 19th & 20th.

★

DHANUS (SAGITTARIUS)
Mula Purva Ashadha
Uttara Ashadha 1/4

THIS week opens with an optimistic note. You should try to develop new sources of income. Family members will be cooperative. You may have to take a decision to change your residence. But it is better to wait for some more time to finalise the arrangement. Finance is fairly satisfactory. Favourable days: 18th & 19th.

★

MAKARA (CAPRICORNUS)
Uttara Ashadha 3/4
Shravana-Dhanistha 1/2

THIS week indicates mixed results. You will be able to solve some of the long pending problems. Financial position will be satisfactory. But avoid speculative investments for some more time. Youngsters will be a source of anxiety. But you can expect cooperation from your family members. Health will be well maintained. Favourable days: 20th & 21st.

★

KUMBHA (AQUARIUS)
Dhanishta 1/2 Sathabhishag
Purva Badrapada 3/4

THE whole week could be satisfactory. You should try to continue your efforts. You will be able to reap the benefits in three or four weeks' time. You should try to cultivate new contacts. Correspondence will be favourable. Finance will improve. Minor speculative gains are also indicated. You can expect cooperation from your family members. Favourable days: 22nd & 23rd.

★

MEENA (PISCES)
Purva Badrapada 1/4
Uttara Badrapada Revati

THIS week opens with a renewed emphasis on monetary affairs. Speculative gains are also indicated. The is no major change in official sphere. Political and social trends will be favourable. Health will be well maintained. Short journeys are indicated. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Favourable days: 23rd & 24th.

GLOSSARY

Arudra	—திருவாதிரை
Pushya	—பூசம்
Ashlesha	—ஆயில்யம்
Purva Phalguni	—பூரம்
Uttara Phalguni	—உத்திரம்
Anuradha	—அனுஷம்
Jyeshtha	—கேட்டை
Purva Ashada	—பூராடம்
Uttara Ashada	—உத்திராடம்
Shravana	—திருவோணம்
Dhanistha	—அவிட்டம்
Satha Bhishag	—சதயம்
Purva Bhadra-pada	—பூரட்டாதி
Uttara Bhadra-pada	—உத்திரட்டாதி

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RACE REVIEW:

Mahmoud Came Too Late On The Scene

By 'SNAPPER'

IT could very well have been a deadheat in the N. Gopala Iyer Memorial Cup (1,200M) on Saturday at Guindy between the winner, Cap O Dimonte (Murdoch up) and the nicely-bred Mahmoud (Carroll up) if only the latter had not been kept so behind in the earlier part of the race.

Mahmoud who was making his first run in his racing career gave such a good impression of himself despite his failure to earn a winning bracket at the maiden attempt itself, that he can be put down as ranking head and shoulder in class above the 100 two-year-olds participating at Guindy this season.

This fashionably-bred colt from Tyrrell's stable was pitted against three other good contenders of whom Philanderer had already chalked out a winning sequence against Cap O Dimonte when they met for the first time and Ali, who ran quite close to Red Chieftan.

It will be interesting to watch how Own Opinion, an equally well-bred two-year old will fare when he meets Mahmoud in a well-priced event.

Mahmoud is by Pieces of Eight out of Goods and Chattels. His sire, Pieces of Eight, is at the moment at the studs in England and he won the Eclipse Stakes a couple of years back. He is the great grandson of the all-time great American champion, Man O 'War. Mahmoud's dam, Goods and Chattells is by Santa Claus who won the Epson Derby in 1964.

Cap O'Dimonte is the best among the fillies and she is sure to go a long way in the classics ahead of her.

In the Race Club Cup, a 2,400M Jewel Prince let down a big following and did not give a fight at any stage of the race. Yusuf Khan rode an understanding race on the winner, Cannon King, to land the spoils. Red Flame who was the runner-up should be kept in mind when entered for middle distance race.

Gay Future's victory in the Caulfield Plate of 1,400M was gained without much difficulty and the three-fourths length separating her from Bright Fair belies her ability to do much more. Gay Futre must be followed from now on until she comes up against one better.

Distinction's failure to figure on the board is most disappointing. This three-year-old chestnut colt had defeated Urvashi last year in the maiden class and from there on hand always placed when running in superior company. It is best that his performance in that race is ignored.

Although punters fared very well on Sunday indicated by the popular solving of the jackpot which paid only Rs. 218, it cannot be said that all the form horses performed as well as they should have done. The fadures of The Hermit and Ivanova to come closer to the winners in their respective races was quite a rude shock to their supporters.

SATURDAY RACES

The following are the runners for the extra day races be held at Guindy on Saturday, December 17.

1. VAILANKANNI PLATE
1200 Metres 2 15 p m.
H'cap for Indian Class III
4 yrs old and upwards

1. Glad News 60, 2. Dauntless 59, 3. Paddy Love 56, 4. Auroson 58, 5. Gretel 55½.

2. NAGAPATTINAM PLATE
1400 Metres 2-55 p.m.
H'cap for horses in Class II

1. Face the Facts 60, 2. charac er 56½, 3. Honeyday 55½, 4. Cyrus 55½, 5. River Spray 54, 6. Desperado 53, 7. Great Seer 51½, 8. Charlemagne 49½, 9. Venumbaka 48.

3. MAYURAM PLATE
1200 Metres 3-30 p.m.
H'cap for horses in Class IV
5 yrs old and upwards

1. Bapu's Choice 60, 2. Nobody Near 59, 3. Red Sun 57, 4. Artful Dodger 56, 5. Kitchini 54½, 6. Lightening Enterprise 52½, 7. God's Gift 52, 8. Jagadhi 51, 9. Wings of Morn 50½, 10. Ram Mahal 49, 11. Venus Union 48½.

4. TINDIVANAM PLATE
1200 Metres 4-05 p.m.
H'cap for horses in Class B
5 years old & upwards

1. Bright Baraoly 60, 2. Jonquil 59½, 3. Prince of Everest 59, 4. Irish Mist 57½, 5. Madam X 54½, 6. Sweetness 50, 7. Bhima 47½, 8. Rashtra Doot 45½.

5. MADURANTAKAM PLATE
1200 Metres 4-40 p.m.
H'cap for horses in Class A
5 years old & upwards

1. Pen Friend 60 2. Golden Orb 59, 3. Sangalpam 57½, 4 Michae Angelo 55½, 5. Gambling Gangster 55, 6. Evergreen 55, 7. Analie 54½, 8. Mighty Plan 54½, 9. Star Crest 53½, 10 Amanta 53, 11. Africain Star 52½, 12 Isodora 52, 13. Scotch Forlic 52, 14. Carousel 51½, 15. Multi Rock 50½.

6. CHINGLEPUT PLATE
1,000 Metres 5-15 p.m.
Maiden Indian 2 yrs old only

1. Khublei Khan 54, 2. Chivas Royal 54, 3. Himmat 54, 3. Tippoo the Great 54, 4. Saucy Sheila 52½, 5. Roiling Plan 52½, 6. Fire Angel 52½, 7. Ardent Queen 52½.

	Race Nos.
JACKPOT:	2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.
1st TREBLE:	1, 2 & 3.
2nd TREBLE:	4, 5 & 6.
1st DOUBLE:	2 & 3.
2nd DOUBLE:	4 & 5.
TANALA Races:	3 & 5.

Snapper's Selections

I	Paddy Love	1
	Gretel	2
II	River Spray	1
	Venumbaka	2
III	Wings of Morn	1
	Kitchini	2
IV	Prince of Everest	1
	Madam X	2
V	Isodora	1
	Scotch Frolic	2
VI	Fire Angel	1
	Tippoo the Great	2

Best Bet: **River Spray**

SUNDAY RACES

Seven Left In For Two Thousand Guineas

In a card of seven races for Sunday, December 18, the prestigious South India 2,000 Guineas is the chief attraction. Of the seven left in for this event to be run over 1,600 M. Linden Flora has an outstanding change.

1. THE TEJPUR PLATE
1200 Maiden Ind. 2 yrs. old
only 1-45 p.m.

1. Huck Finn 54, 2. Jungurra 54, 3. Lord Haw Haw 54, 4. Rapport 54, 5. Omar Khayyam 54, 6. Big Time 54, 7. Fine Future 52½, 8. Marie Mohawk 52½.

2. THE STREAK OF DAWN PLATE
1600 Class I. --25 p.m.

1. Dharma Data 60, 2. King of Seers 56, 3. Tobin Bronze 53, 4. Riddle 52½, 5. Grande Marque 49, 6. Port Royal 46, 7. Roman Eagle 45½.

3. THE SHORE TEMPLE PLATE
1400 M. Class IV. 3-00 p.m.

1. Guido 60. 2. Stilletto 59, 3. Golden Wishes 58½, 4. Future Flash (late Not to Worry) 55½, 5. Avishkar 54, 6. Black Tarquin 53½, 7. Flare Path 52½, 8. Make Sure 49½, 9. Bhaswan 49.

4. THE SOUTH INDIA 2000 GUINEAS
1600 Metres Ind. 3 years. old only. 3-35 p.m.

1. Linden Flora 56, 5. Smart Guy 56, 3. Major Role 56, 4. King's Bench 56, 5. Conspiracy 56, 6. Grand Parade 56, 7. San Ramon 56.

5. THE MAHARAJA OF VENKATAGIRI MEMORIAL CUP.
1400 Metres Cl. A, 4-10 p.m.

1. Robinson Crusoe 60, 2. Magic Flash 60, 3. Cosmic Fury 58, 4. Passion 57½, 5. Soldier Blue 56½, 6. Modern Star 54½, 7. Rare Glory 53½, 8. Golden Streak 52, 9. Stambecco 50, 10. My King 50, 11. Don't Worry 50, 12. Red Canute 49½, 13. Know How 48, 14. Orrefors 48, 15. Emergency 47½, 16. Good Sort 47, 17. Scotch Gift 46½, 18. Gigolette 46, 19. Sai Kirthi 45½.

6. THE TUTICORIN PLATE
1600 Metres. Class III. 4-45 p.m.

1. Emperor of Killyanur 60, 2. Recall 59½, 3. Rock Victory 56, 4. Chronicle 54½, 5. Young Emperor 53.

7. THE VARANASI PLATE
1400 Metres Cl. B. 5-15 p.m.

1. Sharmila 60, 2. King's Melody 59½, 3. Lucky Wish 59, 4. Cannanade 59, 5. Hidden Treasure (late Gun Metal) 50, 6. Hot Bid 45½.

JACKPOT	:—2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.
1st TREBLE	:—1, 2 & 3.
2nd TREBLE	:—4, 5 & 6.
1st TANALA	:—Race : 3.
2nd TANALA	:—Race : 5.
1st DOUBLE	:—2 & 3.
2nd DOUBLE	:—4 & 5.

Snapper's Selections

I	Omar Khayam	1
	Jungurra	2
II	King of Seers	1
	Grand Marque	2
III	Future Flash	1
	Stilletto	2
IV	Linden Flora	1
	King's Bench	2
V	Cosmic Fury	1
	Soldier Blue	2
VI	Chronicle	1
	Emperor of Kiliyanur	2
VII	Hidden Treasure	1
	King's Melody	2

Best Bet. **Linden Flora**

Jai Sankar has become the darling of the masses not only by his dashing acting in action-packed films but also by his munificent and philanthropic nature. His service to the victims of the recent cyclone and flood victims is praised by one and all.

A bashful Jaya. Young, attractive and homely she has acted in a number of Tamil films with credit.

Curvacious and blooming starlet Jayamalini striking an alluring pose in the film ALAMARATHU KILI in Tamil. Will she fill the vacuum created by the exit of her sister Jothilakshmi? This question is on the lips of everyone in the film field. We have to wait and see.

FILMOTSAV—'78

The Scramble For Tickets

WITH THE inauguration of Filmotsav - '78 — International Film Festival—just two weeks away the scramble for tickets has started.

Hundreds of people who had queued up on Dec. 14 at four city threatres—Devi, Devi Paradise, Ega and Sathyam—to buy season tickets (for the first week of the festival only) had to turn back with disappointment.

The season tickets at these theatres were sold out just in a couple of hours since the counters opened.

The date for the sale of season tickets for the second week of the festival will be announced later.

According to reports people had begun to gather outside the four theatres from about 10 p.m. Tuesday. Elaborate police arrangements were made to keep the milling crowds in check when the gates were opened early on Wednesda .

As all season tickets have already been sold out black-market ng of tickets has reportedly begun already.

A disdraught female collegian told a reporter: "One look at the crowd will tell you that a majority of them are there hoping to make a fast buck by selling tickets in the black, while we genuine film enthusiasts have to go without tickets."

Information about the number of season tickets to be sold for each class had been put up well in advance, at all the theatres.

Twentyfive per cent of the total number of tickets have been earmarked for the film industry. Fifty per cent have been held back for sale 48 hours before the show timing and the balance 25 per cent were sold as season tickets on Dec. 14.

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